

FINAL

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2015 in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Mayor Sydney Schulman, Deputy Mayor Joan Gamble, Councilors Joseph Washington, Wayne Hypolite, Joel Neuwirth, Joseph Merritt, Derrick Seldon and Leon Rivers

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent was: Councilor Patrick DeLorenzo

Guest were: Robert Berman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Robert Berman, Chair of the Bloomfield Housing Authority

Mr. Robert Berman, 8 Hiram Lane updated the Council on the activities of the Bloomfield Housing Authority. The Bloomfield Housing Authority is composed 5 Commissioners. Mr. Berman stated that the authority manages 17 units in town. The authority is in discussion about expanding the amount of units for operation. There is definitely a need to create a new waiting list for housing.

The Bloomfield Housing Authority will invest \$100,000 to renovate 13 of the 16 units. Moreover, the authority applied to Energize CT to for energy efficiency measures in all units. There are three units on Taft Avenue that the authority is looking to replace with other vacant properties available in town. These properties are in a wetland area with insect issues and the current repairs needed.

Several Councilors inquired about income level requirements, unit composition, and overall concerns about renovations and repairs of existing units.

CITIZENS STATEMENT & PETITIONS

There were no citizens' statements or petitions.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Community Services – Councilor Seldon reported that this subcommittee met on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Seldon highlighted the Renter's Rebate application period is open from April 1 – October 1. In addition, The Postal Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015. Councilor Seldon encouraged all residents to leave non-perishable items by their mailboxes.

Administration & Education – The next scheduled subcommittee for Monday, May 4, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. has been cancelled due to the Annual Town Meeting.

Golf – Councilor Rivers reported that the Wintonbury Hills Golf Course officially opened for the season on April 11, 2015. Golf carts arrived later than expected, which delayed playability and some revenues. In addition, a tree fell on the fence and has since been removed. The Council had a lengthy discussion regarding the responsibility for installation of new fencing.

Councilor Rivers also announced the 2nd Annual Dan Novaar Golf Tournament and the new 2015 Casper Cup in memory of Billy Casper.

Public Safety – Councilor Washington will gave a detailed report of the last meeting held on April 13, 2015.

Finance – Councilor Hypolite reported that this subcommittee met on April 20, 2015 to discuss the renewal of the town auditor and the presentation of the FY 2015/2016 Town Budget for the Annual Town Meeting.

Land Use & Economic Development – Deputy Mayor Gamble reported that this subcommittee also met on April 20, 2015 to discuss the status updates for the Wintonbury Mall, Valco property, SOS Electric property (possible recommendation for the blighted list), Bloomfield Apartments and South Cottage Grove Road.

Councilor Hypolite inquired about the appointment of a general contractor for the construction of the Bloomfield Apartments. It was noted that both agreements for the Bloomfield Apartments were signed by the Town Manager, which include the minority participation agreement.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

FY 14/15-55: Consider and Take Action Regarding Appointment of Town Auditor

It was moved by Councilor Hypolite, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to appoint Blum Shapiro to conduct the June 30, 2015 audit, to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the FY 2015-2016 Audit and explore conducting forensic audit reviews.

FY 14/15-56: Consider and Take Action Regarding the Release of Liens, Pursuant to CGS 17b-125

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gamble and voted unanimously that the 10 General Assistance Liens referenced in Camilla Jones's memo of 4/21/15, a copy of such list being attached hereto, shall be released forthwith without further payment, it having been determined that such action is necessary and beneficial to the Town.

REPORT FROM MAYOR AND TOWN MANAGER

Mayor's Report

- On April 17, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended the Bloomfield United Methodist Soup Kitchen fundraiser at Rehoboth Church of God, 1170 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.
- On April 18, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended the NAACP Prayer Breakfast in Hartford, CT.
- On April 19, 2015, Mayor Schulman and other Councilors attended the Bloomfield Republican Town Committee – Post Lincoln Day Dinner, honoring Councilor Joseph Merritt for 25 years of public service.

- On April 20, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended the Bloomfield Center Business Association meeting, in which 30 individuals were present representing the business community.
- On April 24, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended the farewell event of Transformed Health & Fitness Ministries, honoring owner Mr. Kelvin Moore for 35 years in the fitness industry. Mr. Moore will be moving to the Washington D.C. area to further his career.
- On April 22, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended CRCOG Board of Directors Meeting.
- On April 26, 2015, Mayor Schulman attended an appreciation dinner for Bishop Jonathan Ramsey at Rehoboth Church of God.
- On April 30, 2015, Bloomfield Public Schools will host their Annual Music & Art Festival at The Bushnell Theatre.
- Prosser Public Library will host their Book Sale from April 30, 2015 – May 2, 2015.
- On May 2, 2015, a Council Retreat will be held at St. Thomas Seminary focusing on “Expanding Our Leadership Capacity”.
- On May 2, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., the Blue Hills Fire District will host their 2nd Annual Fire Safety Day.
- On May 3, 2015, the First Cathedral will host a Law Day Function from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- On May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., the Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Bloomfield High School Auditorium to discuss the FY 2015/2016 Town Budget.
- On May 6, 2015 at 12:00 noon, a meeting will be held at Town Hall to discuss the upcoming events for “Celebrate Bloomfield”.
- On May 6, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce will host the “Bloomfield Annual Dinner”, in which Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager will receive the Business Leadership Award.
- On May 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., a Day of National Prayer will be held at Bloomfield Town Hall – Council Chambers.

- On May 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., the Paul Harris Annual Dinner and Awards will be at the Mill on the River in South Windsor, CT.
- On May 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. an Economic Development Seminar, sponsored by the Connecticut Economic Resource Center will be held at Bloomfield Town Hall – Council Chambers. This seminar has specifically designed for town boards and commission members.
- On May 9, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., the Bloomfield Lions Club will host a plant sale at Bloomfield Town Hall.
- On May 9, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., the Wintonbury Land Trust will host a celebration from the Hawk Hill Land Acquisition at 23 Duncaster Road.
- On June 14, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., a Mayor’s Brunch will be held at the Wintonbury Hills Golf Course honoring Mrs. Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of the Senior Center.

Town Manager’s Report

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager reported the following updates to the Town Council:

- On April 23, 2015, there was a closing on Hawk Hill Land Acquisition, of which 44 acres were purchased by the Wintonbury Land Trust. The Town of Bloomfield will hold the conservation easement.
- On April 17, 2015, the town signed both tax abatement and minority participation agreements for the Bloomfield Apartments with 25 Jerome Avenue, LLC.
- The community garden project is underway in the direction of Leisure Services at the Lisa Lane Farm.
- A Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 26, 2015 beginning at 11:00 a.m.
- On June 4, 2015, the planting day of the Beautification Committee will take place with the assistance of the Public Works Department.
- The Town of Bloomfield have several job vacancies for Police Officers, Back-Up Mini Bus Drivers and Internship opportunities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Gamble, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 13, 2015.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Neuwirth gave a brief update regarding “Celebrate Bloomfield”. There will be a variety of events and activities taking place during May 30, 2015 – June 6, 2015. A detailed bulletin of events has been included in the 2015 Spring/Summer Leisure Services brochure.

Councilor Merritt thanked everyone for attending and honoring him for 25 years of public service at the Post-Lincoln Day Dinner sponsored by the Bloomfield Republican Town Committee.

Deputy Mayor Gamble visited the new “Lenses Only” business located 812 Park Avenue. The owners of this establishment are interested in partnering with Duncaster for eyeglass repair services.

In addition, on April 22, 2015, Deputy Mayor Gamble toured the facilities at The First Cathedral and a tasting of their restaurant offerings.

Councilor Washington congratulated Mr. Michael Davis on his 23 year retirement as a Deputy Warden from the State of Connecticut – Department of Corrections. Councilor Washington also congratulated Councilor Merritt on his years of public service.

Councilor Rivers also toured the facilities at The First Cathedral. He also attended the open house to explore all of the services they offer.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35p.m., it was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Seldon to adjourn the meeting.

**TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD
GENERAL ASSISTANCE LIENS**

Below is a listing of the liens. Due to the confidential nature of this information, the listing does not include identifying information. Please note that 9 of the 10 properties are located on the east side of town where property values have decreased due to revaluation.

DATE OF LIEN	ADDRESS	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	P&I DUE
4/26/1982	Mayfair Court	\$2,625.62	\$6,585.21	\$9,210.83
5/3/1973	E. Burnham Street	\$619.14	\$2,436.33	\$3,046.47
11/13/1977	Mills Lane	\$482.00	\$1,575.22	\$2,057.22
4/2/1993	Blue Hills Avenue	\$18,220.10	\$24,960.06	\$43,180.16
10/7/1994	Sandra Drive	\$631.00	\$751.60	\$1,382.60
3/18/1988	Mayfair Road	\$1,948.11	\$3,669.01	\$5,617.12
7/16/1995	Pine Meadow Lane	\$278.00	\$307.70	\$585.70
12/6/1979	Beatrice Avenue	\$1,154.34	\$3,400.79	\$4,555.13
4/19/1996	Blue Hills Avenue	\$1,000	\$1,025.82	\$2,025.82
4/13/1977	Mitchell Drive	\$6,055.44	\$20,823.53	\$26,878.97
	TOTALS	\$33,004.75	\$65,535.27	\$98,540.02